



MICHIGAN LIBRARY ESTABLISHMENT TYPES

| Establishment Type | Public Act & MCL Cite | Establishment Process | Formation Documents | Governance | Board Type | Board Seating | # Trustees | Trustee Term | Trustee Compensation | Funding | Millage Limit | Library Autonomy |
|--|--|--|---|------------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------------------|---|---------------|---|
| PA 164 Section I City Library | City, Village Township Libraries Act, 1877 PA 164, section 1, MCL 397.201 | City Council adopts resolution to establish library and passes appropriate charter or ordinance sections to govern operation. | City Council Resolution, Ordinance or Charter section, along with applicable meeting minutes. | Board | Governing | Appointed | 5, but city can expand to 7 or 9 (must be odd number no less than 5, no more than 9). | Not less than 2 years nor more than 5. Set by city in establishing charter or ordinance. | None | City may levy a non-voted millage up to 1 mil. An additional voted millage of 1 mil may be added. City may also opt for funding by appropriation. | 2 mils total | Section I city library is largely autonomous due to statutory powers of governing board. However, appointed board and city ordinances on library grant city some authority over library operations. |
| PA 164 Section 10a City Library | City, Village Township Libraries Act, 1877 PA 164, section 10a, MCL 397.210a | 50 city electors present petition to city clerk for ballot proposal of millage for public library. City government may or may not be involved (if involved there would be a resolution). | Ballot Proposal and certified election results. City Council resolution if applicable. | Board | Governing | Initial board is an appointed provisional, then members are only elected. | 6 | Cities with annual city officer elections: 3-year terms; Cities with biennial city officer elections: 6-year terms; Cities that hold city elections every 4 years: 4-year terms. | None | A voted millage is part of establishment. Once initial millage has expired, funding can be via renewed millage or other options. | 2 mils | Section 10a city library is very autonomous thanks to elected board and broad board powers and authority granted by the act. Municipality holds and disburses library funds in treasury, but generally has limited input or authority over library operations and expenditures. |
| Home Rule City Library | Home Rule Cities Act, 1909 PA 279, MCL 117.4e | City Council adopts Charter (and probably ordinance sections) provision establishing library | City Charter and Ordinances, and a City Resolution, if applicable. | City Council Governs library | Municipal Governing board. Could have additional advisory board, but not required. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | City Appropriations. City can have a voted library millage, but millage would apply towards city millage limit. | N/A | A Home Rule City Library is considered a city department. The library has as much autonomy as the city delegates. |

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| Charter Township Library | The Charter Township Act, 1947 PA 359, Section 13a, MCL 42.13a | Charter Township Libraries have population, library service, and prior establishment requirements. Charter Township Board passes resolution or ordinance establishing public library. Ordinance or Resolution must be submitted to the Library of Michigan within 10 days of its passage. | Copy of ordinance or resolution, and meeting minutes of Charter Township Board appointing advisory board. | Charter Township Board governs as library board. | Municipal governing board, and a required appointed advisory board. | Governing board is municipal government. Advisory board is appointed. | Advisory board - 7 members. | 3 years | Determined by charter township board. | Charter Township appropriations. Could have voted millage, but millage would be included in township tax limit. | N/A | A Charter Township Library is a department of charter township and has only the autonomy the charter township board gives it. |
| PA 164 Township Library | City, Village Township Libraries Act, 1877 PA 164, section 10, MCL 397.210 | 50 township electors present the clerk with a petition for a ballot proposal of a millage to establish a public library. Township may also pass a resolution, but does not have to be involved. | Ballot Proposal, Certified elections results, Township resolution, if applicable | Board | Governing | Initial board is an appointed provisional board, then always elected. | 6 | 4 years | None | Voted millage. After initial millage, funding can be from sources other than a millage, such as municipal appropriations. | 2 mils | A PA 164 Township Library is very autonomous thanks to authority and powers granted by the statute. Township holds and disburses library funds in treasury, but has little authority over library operations or expenditures. |
| PA 164 Village Library | City, Village Township Libraries Act, 1877 PA 164, section 1, MCL 397.210 | 50 village electors present the clerk with a petition for a ballot proposal of a millage to establish a public library. Village may also pass a resolution, but does not have to be involved. | Ballot Proposal, Certified elections results, Village resolution, if applicable | Board | Governing | Elected | 6 | Villages with annual village officer elections: 3-year terms; Villages with biennial village officer elections: 6-year terms; Villages that hold village elections every 4 years: 4-year terms. | None | Voted millage. After initial millage, funding can be from sources other than a millage, such as municipal appropriations. | 2mils | A PA 164 Village Library is very autonomous thanks to the authority and powers granted by the statute. The village holds and disburses library funds in the treasury, but has little authority over library operations or expenditures. |

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| District Libraries | The District Library Establishment Act, 1989 PA 24, MCL 397.171 et seq. | Two or more municipalities (including those that already have an existing public library) must form an agreement to jointly establish and fund a public library. This can be initiated by one or more boards of existing public libraries, but the municipalities must approve and sign on to the final District Library agreement. The act specifies what the agreement must contain. | The District Library Agreement, or Organizational Plan (applicable to district libraries formed before 1989), plus resolutions passed by each municipality involved. | Board | Governing | Can be elected or appointed. This is determined by the municipalities in the district library agreement. | Elected board = 7 members; Appointed board = no less than 5 members and no more than 8 members. | Elected board - initial staggered terms then 4-year terms; Appointed-no more than 4-year terms. | No more than \$30 per meeting for no more than 52 meetings per year. | Funding is determined by the parties in the district library agreement. Can be via millage, appropriations, etc.. | If there is a millage, no more than a total of 4 mils. | A district library is as autonomous an entity as a public library can be in Michigan. Boards have broad powers and authority over funding (including ability to levy own millage and float own bonds). Districts hold their own funds and manage all of their own operations. Districts are considered "quasi municipal corporations." |
| School-Public Library | The Michigan Revised School Code, 1976 PA 451, Section 1451, MCL 380.1451 | Via a ballot question during a regular or special school election. School board would have to vote on placing proposal on ballot and on language of proposal. May also pass a resolution for the establishment of a library. | Ballot proposal or question, certified copy of election results, minutes from school board meeting(s) discussing and voting on proposal, resolution of school board for library, if a resolution was passed. | School board governs. | School board is governing board. | N/A | N/A | N/A | Determined by school board and/or local ordinances. | Funded by school millage and part of general school budget. | N/A | School-public library is considered a department of the school it is affiliated with, or a part of the school district. They have only the autonomy provided by the school board. |
| County Library | County Libraries Act, 1917 PA 138, MCL 397.301 et seq. | Via resolution of the Board of County Supervisors | Resolution, and/or board minutes, ballot question and results (if a millage was attempted). | Board | Governing | Appointed by county supervisors. | At least 5. Certain population thresholds may enable increase to 7 members. | 5-year terms after initial staggered terms. | None | County appropriations or millage. | N/A | Moderately autonomous. Fairly broad powers over funds, property, and operations. However, county appoints members and has supervisors on board. |